

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TEL AV 02536 111532Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02  
PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15 /047 W  
-----111535Z 024706 /47

O R 111455Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5655  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2536

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS, US  
SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. OF AMBASSADOR BEN-NATAN

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED APRIL 11  
IN MAARIV UNDER THE HEADLINE "ASHER BEN-NATAN, PERES'  
POLITICAL ADVISER TO U.S.". THE ARTICLE IS ATTRIBUTED  
TO MAARIV'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DISSENCHIK.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ASHER BEN-NATAN, FORMER ISRAEL  
AMBASSADOR TO BONN AND PARIS, AND CURRENTLY, THE  
POLITICAL ADVISER OF DEFENSE MINISTER SHIMON PERES,  
WILL BE IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK. WHILE THE DATE OF  
HIS VISIT HAD BEEN FIXED BEFORE THE LATEST EVENTS ON  
ISRAEL'S POLITICAL SCENE, ISRAELI CIRCLES, AND NOT  
ESPECIALLY THE DIPLOMATIC ONES, IN THE U.S. CAPITAL  
ARE ENDEAVORING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS FOR HIM NOT  
CONNECTED TO THE OBJECTIVE OF HIS PRESENT VISIT.

3. U.S. ADMINISTRATION CIRCLES ARE INCLINED TO  
MEET WITH MR. BEN NATAN BEYOND WHAT IS CUSTOMARY  
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WITH REGARD TO A MAN IN HIS POST, SINCE THEY SEE  
HIM AS A CONFIDANTE OF PERES, THE LATTER SUDDENLY  
HAVING BECOME LABOR'S CANDIDATE FOR THE PREMIERSHIP.

4. ISRAELI CIRCLES ARE TRYING TO LOOK INTO THE  
PSSIBILITY--"UNOFFICIALLY"-- OF A VISIT TO WASHINGTON  
BY SHIMON PERES BEFORE THE ELECTIONS IN MAY. AT

THE SAME TIME EVERYONE REALIZES THAT SUCH A VISIT PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS MIGHT CAUSE COMPLICATIONS FOR BOTH THE ISRAELIS AND AMERICANS. IN ISRAEL THERE IS BOUND TO BE A CONTENTION THAT THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION (IN THE EVENT THAT PERES IS INVITED TO WASHINGTON) IS ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE THE ELECTIONS. NOR IS WASHINGTON OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUCH A VISIT, AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS WILL IN FACT TAKE PLACE.

5. ONLY TWO WEEKS AGO THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT ADVISED FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON AGAINST ATTENDING THE JEWISH CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, AS IT "WOULD NOT LOOK GOOD" BOTH FROM THE ASPECT OF ELECTIONS IN ISRAEL AND FROM ITS CLOSENESS TO THE VISITS OF ARAB LEADERS TO WASHINGTON. MR. ALLON GAVE UP THE IDEA OF GOING AND IN HIS STEAD, THE GUEST OF HONOR AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE PROFESSOR SHLOMO AVINERI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. AFTER SHIMON PERES WAS CHOSEN, ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY, TO HEAD THE LABOR PARTY'S LIST IN THE ELECTIONS, SENIOR U.S. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ARE STILL WONDERING HOW THE ACUTE TURN OF POLITICAL EVENTS IN ISRAEL WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE DIPLOMATIC PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. OFFICIALLY, THE U.S. STAND IS THAT THE CHANGE WILL NOT HAVE ANY INFLUENCE, BUT PRIVATELY UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. OFFICIALS ARE VOICING DOUBTS ON TWO ISSUES: FIRSTLY, THEY FEAR THAT VALUABLE TIME WILL BE WASTED, DUE TO MR. RABIN'S RESIGNATION. SECONDLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF A SPLIT IN THE VOTING IN ISRAEL, WHICH THEY FEEL WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO FORM AN AUTHORITATIVE GOVERNMENT CAPABLE OF CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SELF-ASSURANCE THAT THIS PROCESS REQUIRES. END TEXT DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISIT TO U.S. OF AMBASSADOR BEN-NATAN  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, IS, US, (BEN-NATAN, ASHER)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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